



|2015 ANNUAL REPORT|

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[MISSION AND VALUES STATEMENT]

MISSION STATEMENT

As members of the Fitchburg Police Department, our mission is to provide a professional community-oriented police service. We are committed to creating and maintaining an active community partnership and assisting citizens in identifying and solving problems to improve the quality of lives in our neighborhoods. We are dedicated to protecting life, property, and maintaining order, while assuring fair and equal treatment to everyone.

VALUES STATEMENT

In achieving this mission, the men and women of the Fitchburg Police Department value the diversity of our community and are dedicated to the professional and ethical standards we are sworn to uphold.

We promote and advocate:

Fairness: We treat all people impartially with consideration and compassion. We are equally responsive to our community and employees.

Integrity: We recognize that our behavior must reflect honesty, sincerity, and accountability through ethical and moral standards. We do not tolerate the abuse of our police authority.

Tolerance: We uphold good will, understanding, and equal treatment for everyone.

Commitment: We are proactive members of our organization and community. We are self-directed and self-motivated. We identify problems and develop and implement solutions to improve our quality of life.

Honor: We honor the principles of the United States Constitution and the laws of Wisconsin. If the law is to be honored, those who enforce it must first honor it.

Betterment: We support training, career development and modern equipment and methods to continuously and objectively evaluate our own performance and be receptive to new ideas and constructive changes.

Unity: Our organizational existence is to unite our department with our community. We believe our community and problem-oriented policing is an ongoing process and not a program with a beginning and an end.

Respect: We respect human life. We hold the preservation of life as our sacred duty. Our value of human life sets our priorities.

Goodwill: We build and enhance relationships with our community and other law enforcement agencies through communications, compromise, and kindness and understanding.

IA MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

I am pleased to present the 2015 Fitchburg Police Department Annual Report. Our Annual Report highlights many of the activities our dedicated staff participate in throughout the year. 2015 proved to be a challenging year for the policing profession. Situations occurred both nationally and locally that brought our profession into an intense spotlight. One of the byproducts of these situations was the release of the final report of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. The purpose of this report is to identify methods and/or practices communities may wish to consider in an effort to provide community-oriented police services in the 21st century.

I am pleased to say the Fitchburg Police Department utilizes a number of the identified methods and practices. Examples include the engagement of our citizens by department staff in non-enforcement activities such as our crime day picnic, handing out glow-sticks to children at Halloween, Citizen and Black and Latino Youth police academies, Coffee with a Cop, and serving lunch at an elementary school and senior center. Other examples include assigning officers to districts for a two-year period, bike patrol, and department members working cooperatively with local faith leaders, neighborhood associations, businesses, and rental property managers.

In 2015, the police department implemented and evaluated other methods and practices related to the final report of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. I offer the following as examples: use of social media, training of personnel, and crisis intervention training. The police department began using social media as a way to use technology to interact and engage our community through the use of social media platforms, Facebook and Twitter. As of the writing of this letter, I am pleased to say the department has over 290 "followers" on Twitter and over 1,000 on Facebook. Social media had a positive impact on the department this year when a citizen filmed a few of our officers playing a pick-up basketball game and posted it to Facebook. The video was shared and positively commented on hundreds of times over. Additionally, the department conducted in-service training with our personnel related to the evaluation of situations and the corresponding appropriate use of tactics relative to the situation and implicit bias.

One last example is providing approximately 25% of our total number of police officers, detectives, and sergeants with crisis intervention training and the subsequent formation of a team of mental health liaisons consisting of the personnel that received the training. As stated in the Task Force's final report, crisis intervention training has been shown to improve police ability to recognize symptoms of a mental health crisis, enhance their confidence in addressing such an emergency, and reduce inaccurate beliefs about mental illness.

As we enter 2016, we will continue to use the information in the final report of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing to evaluate our methods and practices. One such undertaking will be to evaluate and implement a body-worn camera program in the department. A committee of personnel will be constructed and tasked with evaluating available technology, conducting listening sessions in the community, developing policy, and training staff on the program.

To conclude, I am proud of the daily work all of our department members do each and every day to serve the Fitchburg Community and I look forward to continuing to examine our methods and practices with the goal of strengthening our relationship with our community.

Sincerely,
Thomas A. Blatter
Chief of Police

[AT A GLANCE]

2015

AT A GLANCE

49
AUTHORIZED
SWORN
PERSONNEL



12
AUTHORIZED
CIVILIAN
PERSONNEL



5
PT/ON-CALL
CIVILIAN
PERSONNEL



20,530
CALLS FOR SERVICE



\$6,494,991
BUDGET



3,515
RECORDS REQUESTS



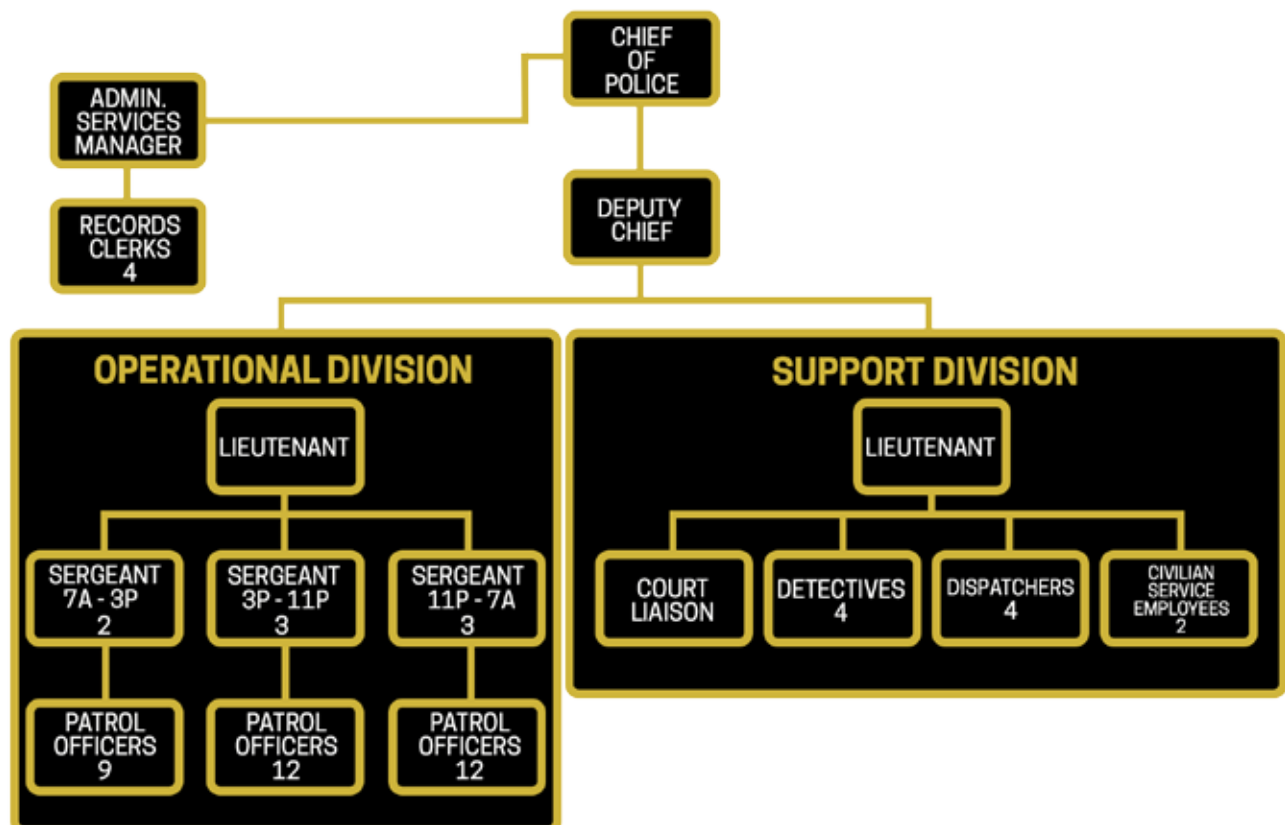
814
ARRESTS



3,077
MUNICIPAL CITATIONS



[ORGANIZATIONAL CHART]



||IN THE COMMUNITY|



This report features several community events and activities undertaken by our personnel through their duties or assignment in a specialized unit. In addition to these events and initiatives, the department also strives to engage the community in other ways. Three specific examples include serving lunch, our Halloween glow necklace giveaway and a community meet and greet event. Outside of these organized activities, our officers routinely take advantage of opportunities to interact with youth and adults while on patrol. Whether it's tossing a football in a park or showing a group of kids the inside of a squad car, these interactions help form lasting relationships with those we serve.

For the last several years, members of the police department visit Stoner Prairie Elementary School and the Fitchburg Senior Center on an approximately bi-monthly basis to serve lunch to students and senior citizens. These activities allow our personnel to interact with and be seen by community members in a setting outside of more traditional interactions with police officers. While serving lunch, officers are able to mingle with children and senior citizens. Oftentimes, officers are posed with questions from children about being a police officer or questioned by senior citizens about potential solutions to situations taking place in their neighborhood.

Our Halloween glow necklace giveaway continues to be one of our officers' favorite community events. Officers spread out throughout the neighborhoods and walk around and hand out glow necklaces. Not only is this a great way for officers to talk to kids, but the glow necklaces provide some extra safety and visibility during the dark hours of Halloween. This year we handed out 1,500 glow necklaces.

Finally, members of the police department attended a community organized Public Safety Meet and Greet in October. This event allowed attendees the opportunity to interact with our K-9 Unit, police officers, and Fitchburg public safety personnel.

All of these efforts to interact and engage with the community are part of our core community policing philosophy. We rely on all of our partners in the community, young and old, to help make Fitchburg a safe and enjoyable place to live, work and visit.

|BIKE RODEO|

Each year, the Fitchburg Police Department's Bike Patrol Team participates in and assists with the Fitchburg Bike Rodeo. This event, sponsored by the City of Fitchburg, provides area youth with the opportunity to practice their bicycling skills, learn more about bike safety, and have their helmets and safety equipment checked. The Bike Patrol members enjoy spending time with our area's young cyclists and teaching them about various aspects of bicycling, including: Rules of the Road, Safe Slowing/Stopping, and Sharing the Road. Team members work with other City of Fitchburg staff members as they guide the youth through the various stations.

Towards the end of the event, the Bike Patrol leads the participants on a "Safety Ride" around the community so everyone is able to put the skills they have learned throughout the day to use in a real world application. This year, we led the "Bike to Books" ride, where participants biked to the Fitchburg Library to enjoy various activities led by library staff members.

Assisting with this event and contributing to the knowledge and education of the youngest cyclists around our community is one of the most rewarding events of the year for the Bike Patrol Team. Working together with fellow City staff members allows us to give back to our community and the citizens we serve.

|BLACK & LATINO YOUTH ACADEMIES|

The Fitchburg Police Department participated again this year in the annual Black and Latino Youth Academies. The academies consist of a diverse group of law enforcement officers committed to hosting the academy and mentoring youth. The academies focus on the building relationships with black and Latino youths throughout the Madison area.

During the academy, the participants are given an understanding of the role and day-to-day work of a law enforcement officer. They complete training scenarios in traffic stops, evidence, report writing, and various other topics. They also build relationships with the officers teaching at the academies.

The academies are a combined effort with the Madison Police Department, University of Wisconsin-Madison Police Department and the Dane County Sheriff's Office. The academies are held for 7th and 8th grade students interested in law enforcement.

Graduates of the academy keep in contact with their law enforcement mentors and instructors to continue to strengthen the interaction between police and youth in the Fitchburg area.

|FOOD DRIVE|

Our 2015 Food Drive was, once again, a huge success. During the month of November we had food barrels throughout all the city departments, as well as at Eagle School and Edward Jones in Fitchburg. As in the past, we extended a friendly challenge to the other city departments to see who could bring in the most donations. For the third year in a row, the Highway Department crushed every other department. We also spent a Saturday morning with a squad at both Hy-Vee and Copps grocery stores for our Stuff-A-Squad event. This event brings in a lot of food from very generous citizens. In the end, we delivered 3 truckloads of food to the Allied Food Pantry on December 4th.



[SHOP WITH A COP]



In 2015, the Fitchburg Police Department, along with several other agencies in Dane County, were fortunate enough to participate in “Shop with a Cop.” With assistance from local schools, the program identifies deserving children to participate in “Shop with a Cop”. These children are then paired with law enforcement officers in their area, and together they shop at the east side Target store for Christmas gifts for their family members, as well as themselves. Each child is given \$175 to shop for the gifts, and the money is entirely raised through private donations. Officer Miller, the coordinator of Shop with a Cop for Fitchburg, along with Officer Parker, Officer Jacobson, and Sergeant Laha had the pleasure of being chosen to shop with the four deserving children from Fitchburg.



The day started with each child being picked up at their residence by the officers. The officers and children were able to get to know each other and their families, which was important to know how many gifts each child would need to purchase. Some of the children had already made a list, complete with each item’s cost. As the officers and children made their way to Target, the children were assigned to an officer and final shopping plans were made. Once the group arrived at Target, the children were provided a gift bag, a t-shirt, and a picture opportunity with the officer with whom they were shopping. Then the shopping began, and each child was able to fulfill each of their lists, and more!

Once the shopping experience was complete, the children and officers packed up the gifts that were purchased and drove to a Madison VFW for gift wrapping and lunch. The children and officers, with the assistance from some amazing volunteers, wrapped each of the gifts purchased for the family members. Many of the gifts were wrapped with more love than that of a precision gift wrapping; however, it was the thought that counted. The children and officers were then served a pizza lunch and the opportunity to socialize with the other officers and children selected to share in the joyous occasion.

|BOYS & GIRLS CLUB|



|BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB FIELD OF DREAMS| Officers joined the Madison Mallards to play baseball with youth at the Boys & Girls Club in the Allied Drive Neighborhood.



|BIKE FOR BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB SPINNING| Officer Hale & Sergeant Hartwick rode spin bikes in full uniform for an hour to help raise funds for the Bike for Boys & Girls Club Bike Ride.



|BIKE FOR BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB| Lieutenant Brecklin, Officer Frias, Officer Hale, Sergeant Hartwick and Detective Aguirre were part of a City of Fitchburg team to raise money for the Boys and Girls Club.

[SPECIAL OLYMPICS]

The Fitchburg Police Department has three members on the planning committees for both the Wisconsin Special Olympics Polar Plunge and the Law Enforcement Torch Run. Police Dispatcher Jean Garcia has been serving on the committee for the past 17 years and previously was involved with the Law Enforcement Torch Run for numerous years. Detective Hector Aguirre has been on both the Polar Plunge and Law Enforcement Torch Run committee for the past 13 years. Detective Sean Coffey joined the Polar Plunge committee in 2013 and has been actively involved in the Law Enforcement Torch Run for several years.

Last year, 1,900 brave souls took the plunge in Madison and raised more than \$340,000 for Special Olympics Wisconsin. The plungers and their supporters have raised nearly \$19 million for Special Olympics athletes, right here in Wisconsin.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Wisconsin is to raise funds for and awareness of the Special Olympics movement. Law enforcement volunteers educate the community about the gifts, talents, and abilities of people with intellectual disabilities and create opportunities to bring the community together. In the Final Leg, law enforcement personnel run or bike from various cities, including Madison to Stevens Point, WI. Detective Aguirre biked from the WI State Capitol to Portage, Wisconsin, along with other officers completing all the Final Leg runs along the way.

[COFFEE WITH A COP]



The department's Coffee with a Cop program entered its third year, with events at McDonald's on Fish Hatchery Road and the Starbucks Café inside Super Target on McKee Road.

Coffee with a Cop is a program that embodies the strong community policing focus of the Fitchburg Police Department by allowing officers to interact face to face with members of the community, all over a cup of coffee. During these interactions citizens have shared concerns about issues in their neighborhoods and have also been able to ask questions they may have otherwise not asked.

The Coffee with a Cop program began in California in 2011 and has now spread to over 2,000 communities in 49 states and has even spread overseas to countries in Europe and Africa.

The department already has dates for Coffee with a Cop scheduled for 2016 and will continue to hold the events in different parts of the city to allow all residents a chance to meet with officers.

[CRIME DAY PICNIC]



During the first week of August, police departments across our nation host a "National Night Out." National Night Out is a program designed as an opportunity for the community to meet members of their local police departments and learn about services the police departments offer. On Sunday, August 2, the Fitchburg Police Department hosted our annual Crime Prevention Picnic as part of the National Night Out program. We handed coloring books to young children. On display we had our command trailer, police cars from several local police departments, police motorcycles, fire trucks, snow plows, and our K-9 Unit. We even served a picnic-style lunch. Our next Crime Prevention Picnic will be August 6, 2016.



|CITIZEN'S ACADEMY|

In 2015, our department hosted its fifth Citizen's Academy class. We had several applications for the academy, and out of those applications, twelve individuals were selected to participate in a nine-week training course. The Citizen's Academy was held on Thursday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., beginning September 10th and concluding with a graduation dinner on November 12th.

During the nine-week course, the citizens were able to learn a wide variety of topics taught by officers from the department. The citizens were able to perform hands-on training during these topics. The first week, members of the academy received an orientation and tour of the department facilities. The second week, they received a presentation on drugs and gangs and also were provided a K-9 demonstration. The following third week, they received instruction on vehicle contacts and traffic stops. In week four, the class was educated on crime scene investigations. After the instruction, a simulated crime scene was set up and they had an opportunity to process the scene.

The only exception to the Thursday evening instruction was week five, where everyone traveled to Madison International Speedway. Here the participants had the opportunity to be involved in low-speed pursuits around the speedway and also receive instruction on emergency vehicle operations. Week six, the academy received information on building searches, followed by another K-9 demonstration. Members had an opportunity to search various rooms to locate anyone hiding. Week seven, the class traveled to Madison College for Defensive and Arrest Tactics (DAAT). During DAAT, students were taught how to defend themselves and also learned handcuffing techniques. Students were also given a demonstration on the Taser, how it works, and were able to fire a live training cartridge.

For week eight, the focus was firearms. We traveled to an indoor range where the students were given instruction on firearms. Students then had an opportunity to shoot Glock handguns which are the same model officers carry. The ninth and final week, we traveled back to Madison College for scenarios and utilized the Tactical Training Simulator. During the Tactical Simulator training, citizens were given scenarios on a large projection screen and were able to see how a situation could intensify. Students then took all of the tools they learned and were put into a life-like scenario. During these scenarios, students had to communicate with a role player and determine what, if any, tactics would be used. The students learned that a routine call for service can quickly escalate into a high-level stress call based on the actions of the student and role player.

Throughout the course of the academy instruction, one of the participants was a news reporter from a local Madison television station. Portions of the class were recorded, and a story was presented regarding the Citizen's Academy on the news.

On November 12th, we celebrated the end of the Citizen's Academy with a graduation dinner. The students were individually recognized for their attendance and commitment shown during the previous nine weeks while attending the Citizen's Academy. Also in attendance at the dinner were past Citizen Academy graduates. Special thanks goes out to the participants, as well as to the different instructors from the Fitchburg Police Department who instructed during the academy.

Past and present participants have indicated that the academy is a rewarding experience and they didn't realize how much is expected of an officer with the Fitchburg Police Department. If you are interested in participating in this program, we will be accepting applications in May for the 2016 class.

[CITIZEN'S ACADEMY]



[ANIMAL CONTROL]

The City of Fitchburg currently has two Humane Officers, Mitchell Sutter and Jason Wenzel. Mitchell has been a Humane Officer for the City of Fitchburg since 2008, and Jason has been a Humane Officer for the City of Fitchburg since 2007.

To become certified as a Humane Officer in the state of Wisconsin, both Mitchell and Jason attended a week course that involved the laws on animal care, the signs of animal abuse, how to prosecute a person for animal abuse/neglect, etc.

Once the course had been successfully completed, both Mitchell and Jason had to be appointed by the City of Fitchburg as Humane Officers. To keep certification, Mitchell and Jason must complete 32 classroom credits every two years.

In 2015, there were 441 animal complaints and 44 animal bites.

The common animal complaints received are animal at large issues, barking dogs, animal in a live trap, and animal bites.

In the spring of 2015, the police department received numerous complaints/concerns regarding fox sightings and how adapted they were to being around people. In the spring, it is common for foxes to have their offspring. There are various parts of Fitchburg where foxes have built a den. Easy access to food (garbage) keeps the foxes in urbanized neighborhoods. Citizens should be aware not to interact with the foxes as they will not pose a threat unless they feel threatened.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has information pertaining to urban wildlife and can answer questions citizens have regarding urban wildlife. The website link is: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifeHabitat/urban.html>.

The City of Fitchburg Police Department rents out live traps to citizens for animals that are considered a nuisance. The Department of Natural Resources considers raccoons, skunks, and opossums to be a nuisance.

If citizens are having issues with the animals on their property, they can rent a live trap for a deposit of \$55. Once the live trap is returned, the deposit will be refunded. If an animal is trapped, a Humane Officer will destroy and dispose of the animal. If a Humane Officer is not working, it is the responsibility of the complainant to dispose of the animal.



|BIKE PATROL|

Officers Nick Cleary, Jasara Woulf, Pete Johnston, Mike Buri, and Sergeant Ryan Jesberger had a busy year working with the citizens of Fitchburg on their police bicycles as members of the 2015 Fitchburg Police Department Bike Patrol Team. In order to be a member of the Bike Patrol Team, officers must complete the IPMBA (International Police Mountain Bike Association) certification course. During this training, officers learn patrol tactics, bicycle maintenance, first aid, and multiple specialized skills (including how to ride up and down stairs). Each spring, team members attend an annual “Skills Refresher” course to maintain their skills.

In addition to their normal patrol duties, all four officers assisted with multiple events throughout the year, including: Fitchburg Days, Wheels and Reels, Concerts at McKee, the Agora Art Fair, Pack ‘n the Park, Touch A Truck, the Fitchburg Bike Rodeo, the Fitchburg Crime Day Picnic, and many more. Utilizing the bicycles at these events and on patrol allows our Bike Patrol Officers to interact with members of our community without the barrier of a squad car. Each Bike Patrol Team member’s squad car is outfitted with a bike rack, which allows the officers to quickly switch into a vehicle to respond to emergency calls for service in all areas of the city, even when they are out patrolling on their bicycles.

As we transition into 2016, the Bike Patrol Team looks forward to working with our community to increase bicycle safety and awareness, attending and participating in events, and patrolling the many neighborhoods and business districts throughout the city of Fitchburg.



|CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM|

The Fitchburg Police Department joined a nationwide movement of over 2,700 communities, along with many of our neighboring departments, in forming a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) to work with individuals struggling with mental illness in our community. Sponsored by NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), the CIT Training is a 40-hour course led by current CIT law enforcement officers and mental health professionals. The course teaches officers methods and skills to deal with difficult calls for service involving individuals going through a mental health crisis. CIT Training also provides officers with techniques to ensure the safety of officers, individuals in crisis, and bystanders.

Officers Denise Miller, Virginia Thain, Kelly Jacobson, Dan Varriale, Jasara Woulf, and Sergeant Ryan Jesberger were the first officers from our department to complete the CIT Training. In addition to their regular patrol duties and special assignments, members of the Fitchburg Police Department's Crisis Intervention Team work with members of our community suffering from a mental health crisis. This includes coordinating with various agencies around Dane County to find the correct treatment plan to help the individual get through the mental health crisis. Throughout the days and weeks that follow the crisis, CIT members follow up with these individuals to assist them with obtaining treatment, connect them with various mental health professionals, and check their wellbeing. CIT officers are assigned individuals who are in need of assistance and work to build a relationship of mutual trust, respect, and understanding.

|HONOR GUARD|



In May of 2015, Honor Guard members Detective Sean Coffey and Officer Lucas Hale participated in the Sunrise Guard Mount of the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. The Sunrise Guard Mount is a prestigious assignment, patterned after the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier ceremony, to watch over the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Officers Memorial beginning at sunrise on the day of the state's law enforcement memorial ceremony. The memorial rests on the Capitol Square and bears the names of over 400 men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in their service as law enforcement officers in the state.

The Honor Guard also participated in the funeral services for Wisconsin State Trooper Trevor Casper, who was killed in the line of duty on March 24th, 2015. In November, the Honor Guard participated in the funeral services for McFarland Police Officer Ryan Copeland, who was killed in the line of duty on November 23rd.

Members of the Honor Guard also presented the U.S. colors at the department's annual awards ceremony in September.



K-9 Chase turned eight in January of 2015. Since most police working dogs have a maximum effective working age of eight to ten years, Chase's handler, Officer Cesar Lopez, closely monitored Chase's physical abilities. Despite his age, Chase had another busy year of detecting narcotics, searching for suspects and evidence, and assisting officers in checking buildings for burglary suspects.

K-9 Chase was involved in locating several weapons that were discarded by suspects, one in the city of Fitchburg and two more in the city of Madison. In one instance, officers responded to a disturbance at an apartment complex in Fitchburg where a victim had been stabbed. When officers arrived, the involved parties had fled. K-9 Chase began to search the area and located a handgun that had been hidden in the wheel well of a vehicle. It is highly unlikely the weapon would have been located in the busy parking lot at night without the assistance of Chase.

Madison police asked for Chase's assistance after they pursued a carload of violent suspects who had been involved in a series of shootings in the city of Madison. Some of the vehicle occupants ran from the vehicle when it crashed, ditching two guns along the way. Chase was able to locate one of the weapons immediately and was able to indicate an area to officers where a second gun was later located.

Although Chase's scent detection and desire to work never decreased, he began to show signs of his age, and the decision for him to retire was made at the end of 2015. Chase will officially retire in January 2016 and will begin his retirement as Officer Lopez's family pet.

Planning for the next K9 Unit will begin in the first quarter of 2016.

[MOTORCYCLE UNIT]

The Motorcycle Patrol Unit is comprised of Officer Andre Poehnelt, Sergeant Marthe and Sergeant Bomkamp. Sergeant Bomkamp is the Motorcycle Unit supervisor and he utilized the motorcycle unit for several special events this year.

Sergeant Marthe and Officer Poehnelt participated in the annual three-day motorcycle training course in McFarland, WI, in April. This training course was instructed by certified instructors from other police departments in the Dane County area and involved slow speed maneuvers, high-speed braking, and motorcycle officer safety.

The Fitchburg Police Department motorcycle is a 2015 Harley Davidson Electra Glide. The patrol motorcycle offers significantly better fuel economy than a squad car and is much more maneuverable. The motorcycle is used for speed enforcement, special events, calls for service, and traffic control. The motorcycle is equipped with radar for speed enforcement, a laptop computer, and many of the features in the squad cars that officers at the Fitchburg Police Department utilize on a daily basis.

Officer Poehnelt assisted the City of Verona Police Department with their annual National Night Out.

Sergeant Marthe participated in Middleton's National Night Out, Madison's Brat Fest, the first annual Kickin It For Kids softball tournament, and the Fitchburg Police Department's Crime Day Picnic.

Sergeant Marthe and Officer Poehnelt look forward to attending the 2016 spring training session to continue to improve their riding skills and safety.



|SPECIAL EVENTS TEAM|

2015 was an eventful year for the Special Events Team (SET) as we continued our collaborative efforts with the Middleton and Sun Prairie Police Departments. SET has maintained this sharing of personnel, training, and resources for over a decade and continues to enjoy the trainings and deployments related to crowd control and search warrants with our sister agencies.

The Special Events Team experienced numerous deployments in 2015 related to crowd control measures, beginning by assisting the Dane County Sheriff's Office and Madison Police Department in early April on State Street as the Wisconsin Badgers Men's Basketball Team played for the National Championship. The event was peaceful, much like the subsequent deployments, including anticipated protests regarding a high-profile officer-involved shooting incident and our annual Freakfest deployment on State Street in Madison for Halloween.

The Dane County Sheriff's Office graciously invited the conglomerate SET unit back to Fort McCoy in October for further advanced training pertaining to securing various rural and urban dwellings. These trainings were supplemented with various role-play scenarios in low light, daylight, indoor, and outdoor settings. Additionally, SET enjoyed training to assist in emergency first aid and emergency personnel extraction to better prepare for a high-risk incident.

SET assisted the Madison Police Department in a notable round of search warrants in late summer, which resulted in a combined total of nearly a dozen arrests and substantial criminal charges for various conspirators. This effort exemplifies the hard work put in by SET members regarding training, but also signifies the collaborative efforts and partnership shared with neighboring agencies like the Madison Police Department and Dane County Sheriff's Office.

|TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT GRANTS|

In 2015, the department was awarded a \$20,000 operating while intoxicated (OWI) traffic grant funded through the Bureau of Transportation Safety to assist with traffic enforcement and safety. Out of this \$20,000, the department was able to utilize \$5,000 of the grant funds to purchase a dual-band squad radio system compatible with Dane County's forthcoming new radio system.

With the awarded grant, officers conducted high visible patrol enforcements each month throughout the year. The purpose of the grant is to educate the motoring public and for enforcement. In Wisconsin automobile crashes, alcohol was listed as a contributing factor 4.1% of the time. 30.7% of all vehicle crash fatalities were alcohol-related, resulting in 153 deaths. Alcohol-impaired driving is associated with other high-risk behaviors that increase the likelihood of a crash and of significant injury or death occurring; these include speeding and failure to wear safety belts.

With over 35 square miles and over approximately 149 miles of roadway to be patrolled, officers spent a total of 248 enforcement hours during the traffic grant year. Of these patrol hours, a total of 267 citations and 90 warnings were issued. There were also 13 OWI arrests made.

The department strives to keep the roadways safe for all residents and visitors to the city of Fitchburg. Please know that the primary reason we take these efforts so seriously is to help make traveling the streets in Fitchburg safer for everyone in this great community.

|MEDDROP BOX|

The Fitchburg Police Department has partnered and is proud to be associated with the Safe Communities Collaboration. With this partnership, the department participates in the MedDrop program and is an official drop sight for unwanted drugs. The MedDrop program is a permanent, year-round household pharmaceutical waste collection program that allows residents to dispose of their unused medications. Fitchburg is one of thirteen locations in Dane County where unused medications are collected and properly secured at the police department. Collected medications are then incinerated and disposed of in the most environmentally safe method currently available.

The City of Fitchburg recognizes that the abuse and misuse of pharmaceuticals is a serious societal problem. Furthermore, leftover and expired prescriptions and over-the-counter medications can be found in every household in the county. Last year unintentional poisonings killed more Dane County residents than automobile crashes. Misuse or abuses of prescription, over-the-counter, or illicit drugs are the major cause. Pain medications when misused can also be especially fatal. Pharmaceutical waste also poses a significant environmental risk, especially to our drinking water. Studies conducted throughout the country have uncovered many of these drugs in our drinking water, and the negative effects of these substances on the general population are only now beginning to be studied and understood. Additionally, the use of this program is a safe, secure way to dispose of unwanted medications which could unintentionally be consumed by children and others, or be scavenged from the trash and sold illegally.

The most recent data indicates that a total of 7.5 tons of unwanted and unused medicines were collected and disposed of with the MedDrop program within Dane County in 2014. In 2015, Fitchburg collected 1,175 pounds of unused medicine.

Fitchburg residents are encouraged to bring expired, unwanted, or unused medications to the MedDrop box located in the entrance to the police department at 5520 Lacy Rd. This is available from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday-Friday. This program is anonymous, there are no forms or paperwork to fill out, and there is no cost to drop off medications.

|RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM|

In 2015, the City of Fitchburg Police Department had 46 citizens shadow a patrol officer during a portion of their shift. The Ride-Along program provides citizens with an opportunity to experience what an officer's daily activity may entail.

During a Ride-Along citizens and officers often discuss how police officers interact with the community, as well as different types of calls for service officers respond to. In addition, officers receive feedback from citizens related to their perceptions of law enforcement.

Applications for participating in a Ride-Along are available online at the Police Department's Website and are also available at the Police Department.



2015 marked the launch of the department's presence in the world of social media. The department created Facebook and Twitter accounts to help further communication efforts with the community.

These social media accounts serve as an extension of the department's community policing philosophy by reaching out to individuals online rather than requiring internet users to visit the City's website for information. The department has utilized the accounts to share time-sensitive information as well stories about our special events and involvement in community happenings.

Additional posts have also focused on sharing crime prevention tips that can then be easily spread by social media users. The department's Facebook page now has over 1,000 followers and is growing daily.

You can check out the Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/fitchburgwipolice/>. Our Twitter feed can be found here: <https://twitter.com/fitchburgwipd>.

Fitchburg, Wisconsin - Police Department
January 11 at 3:54pm · 🌐

UPDATE: Thank you for sharing. The [#LabWhoLostHisWay](#) has been reunited with his human.

This guy was just brought to us by a citizen after he was found in the area of Pembroke Drive and Osmundsen Road. Please give us a call if you're his human or know his humans.

[#FoundDog](#)

Fitchburg, Wisconsin - Police Department
January 5 · 🌐

[#TuesdayTip](#)

A cold car is better than no car at all. Please don't leave your car running and unlocked, even in your driveway. Unlocked cars warming up in the winter provide an easy crime of opportunity.

|LEADERSHIP IN POLICE ORGANIZATIONS|

During the summer of 2015, Officers André Poehnelt and Lucas Hale attended the Leadership in Police Organizations course, LPO for short, in Janesville. This 120-hour course is taught over a three week span and focuses on the various aspects of leadership and being a more effective leader, regardless of your title or rank.

Along with approximately forty other students from law enforcement agencies across the state, Officers Poehnelt and Hale learned proven techniques on leading individuals, groups, and organizations as a whole, with the theme of the training being “Every officer is a leader.” This training encourages more collaboration among all levels of staff to facilitate change and improve performance across the entire organization.

The Fitchburg Police has been committed to the LPO process for the past five years, ensuring that all command staff as well as a number of officers have attended this training.

|LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY|

In fall of 2015, the Fitchburg Police Department sent new recruit Eric Miller to the Law Enforcement Academy at Madison College. This academy is 540 hours of training, over thirty academic tests, and over twenty practical tests and/or evaluations. Eric attended the academy, which ran Monday through Friday for thirteen weeks.

During the academy, Eric had many different topics of instruction, consisting of six major disciplines: Policing in America, The Legal Context, Tactical Skills, Relational Skills, Patrol Procedures, and Investigations.

Topics under those disciplines consisted of: Defense and Arrest Tactics (DAAT), Firearms, Community Resources, Ethics, Constitutional Law, Juvenile Law, Report Writing, Professional Communications, and more.

The academy had a total of nineteen people within the class, in which more than half of the students were sponsored by a law enforcement agency. The final week of the academy consisted of scenarios based on the type of calls a police officer would respond to during a work shift, allowing the students to incorporate the entire curriculum learned over the thirteen weeks.

Graduation for the academy was held on December 11, 2015. Eric began the Field Training Program at the Fitchburg Police Department on December 14, 2015. The sixteen week long Field Training Program incorporates and builds upon the academy training, gradually giving officers experience working in the field while under the supervision of a training officer.

[AWARDS CEREMONY]



On September 1, 2015, the Fitchburg Police Department held our Awards Ceremony. The ceremony recognizes members of the community and police department employees who have exhibited exceptional efforts toward the safety and security of the Fitchburg community during the year 2014.

The following awards were given at this year's ceremony:

Lifesaving Award

Lucas Hale
Denise Miller

Medal of Valor

Matthew Wiza
Gary Eisenzimmer
Christopher Larson
Randall Hilbelink

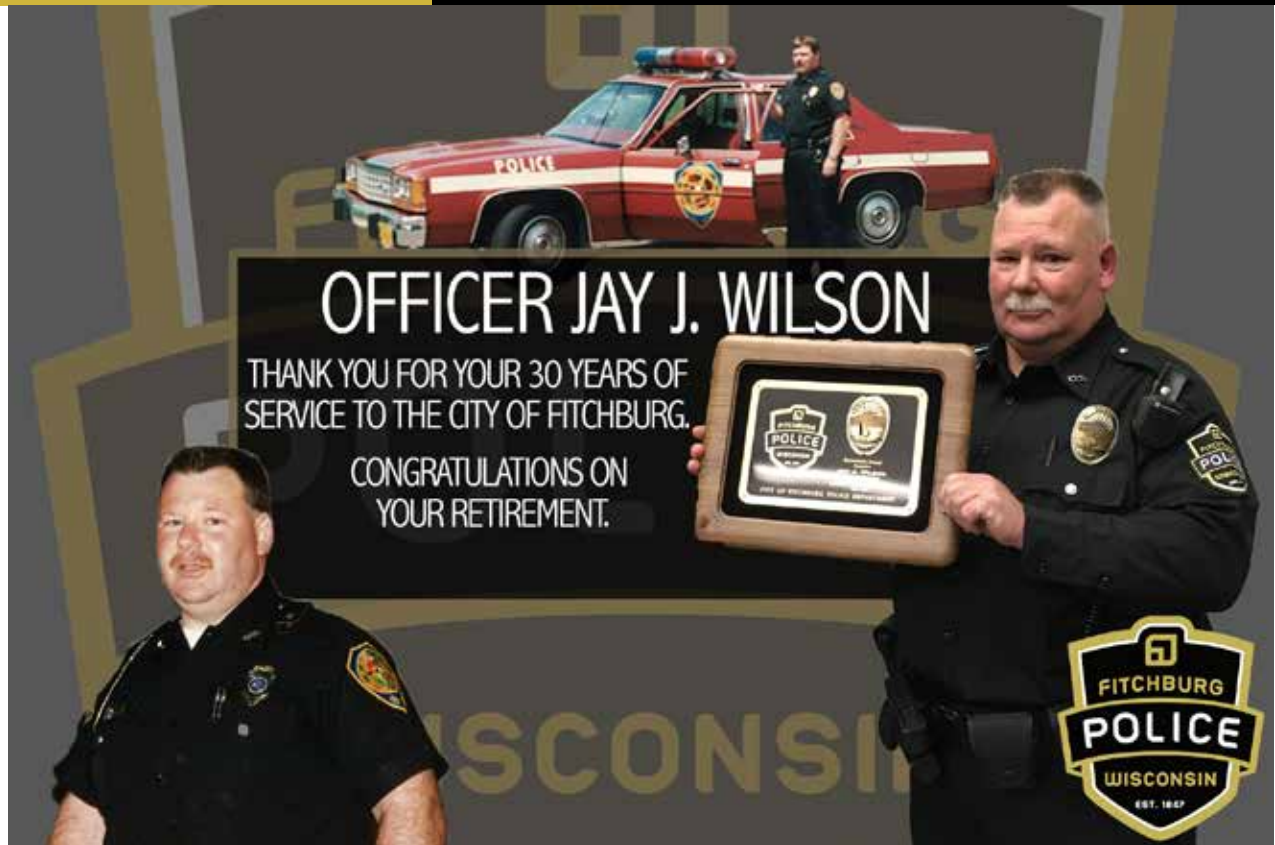
Meritorious Conduct Award

Kenneth Folkers
Matthew Wiza
Donald Bates

Outstanding Service Award

Todd Stetzer

[RETIREMENT]



On December 31, 2015, Officer Jay Wilson retired from the Fitchburg Police Department, having served 30 years. During his tenure with the department, Jay accomplished much and served the department and community in many ways. He developed and implemented many of the department's crime prevention programs over the years, he was a member of the traffic team, and trained officers in Emergency Vehicle Operation and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing. Additionally, Jay was a fire investigator, neighborhood officer, field training officer, and raised funds for the department's K-9 program.

Jay worked closely with Joining Forces for Families. He kept an eye on quality-of-life issues, such as the condition of rental units and those in need of services such as clothing and food. Jay was known for his kindness and compassion and, on occasion, he purchased gas and food for those who needed help.

In his 30 years of service, Jay has shown his dedication and desire to make the City of Fitchburg a great place to live and work. He has been an asset to the department and the community. Jay made a difference, and he will be missed. We congratulate Jay on his retirement and wish him the best!

[NEW HIRES & PROMOTIONS]



SGT. JASON MARTHE
PROMOTED | 3.23.15



OFFICER MORGAN MCDONNELL
HIRED | 9.10.15



OFFICER ERIC MILLER
HIRED | 9.10.15



OFFICER MARLON HANNAH
HIRED | 12.28.15

2015 STATS AT A GLANCE

% CHANGE IS BASED ON 2014 TO 2015 UNLESS NOTED.



20,530
CALLS FOR SERVICE
A **6%** INCREASE



2,582
911 DISCONNECTS
A **40%** INCREASE



814
ARRESTS
A **6%** DECREASE



478
REFERRALS TO THE D.A.
A **9%** INCREASE



4,130
TRAFFIC STOPS



574
TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS*
*BASED ON 2014 - MOST RECENT DATA



3,077
MUNICIPAL CITATIONS
ISSUED FOR
TRAFFIC & ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS



2,413
WARNINGS ISSUED
FOR TRAFFIC/EQUIPMENT
VIOLATIONS



125
OWI ARRESTS



42
DRUG CALLS
FOR SERVICE
BASED ON THE INITIAL CALL FOR SERVICE.
DOES NOT INCLUDE ALL CALLS IN WHICH
DRUGS WERE INVOLVED.



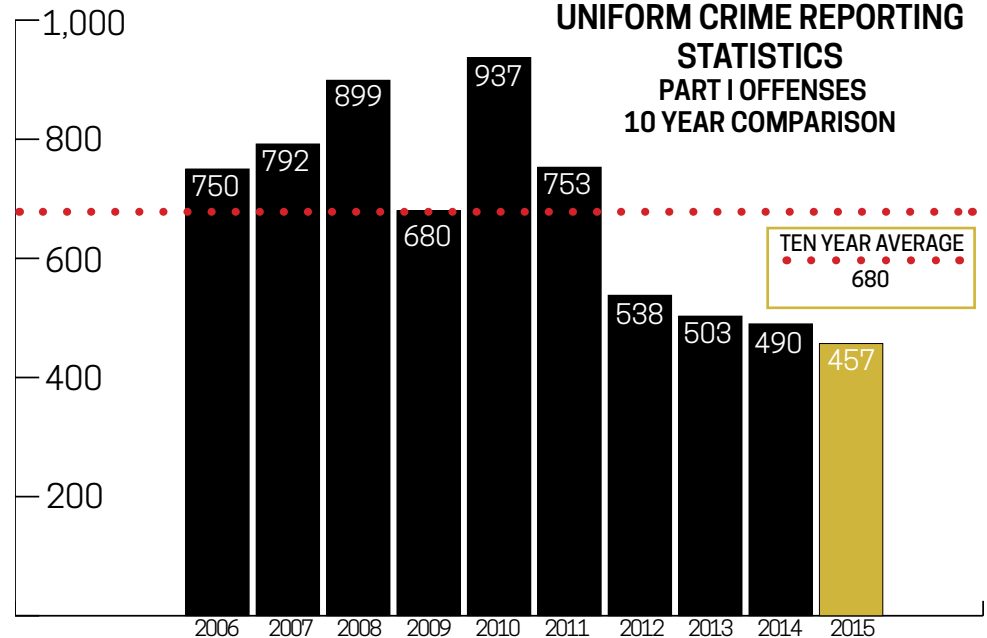
700
HOURS OF FOOT PATROL
CONDUCTED BY OFFICERS

UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING

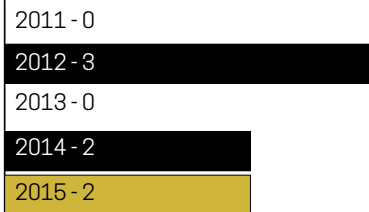
Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) is a nationwide effort to collect and report crime statistics. Law enforcement agencies are responsible for submitting statistics to the FBI. Statistics are limited to reported crime.

UCR is divided into two parts. Part 1 covers the violent and property crimes displayed here. Part 2 covers a wider array of less serious offenses.

UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING STATISTICS PART I OFFENSES 10 YEAR COMPARISON



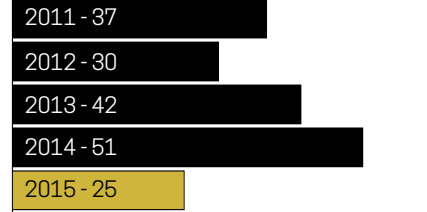
HOMICIDE



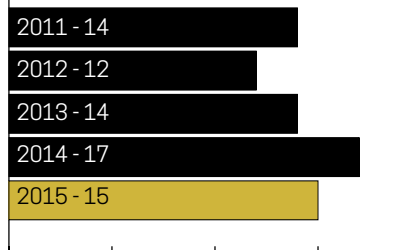
FORCIBLE RAPE



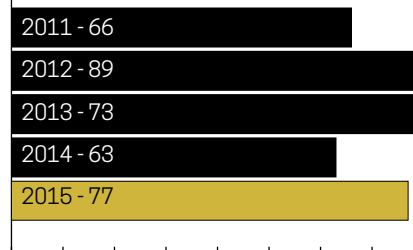
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT



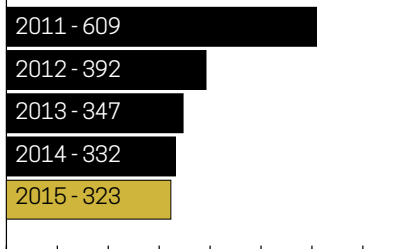
ROBBERY



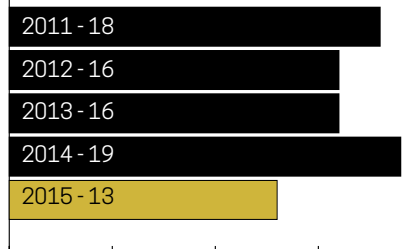
BURGLARY



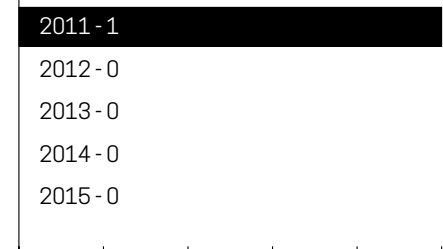
LARCENY



MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT



ARSON



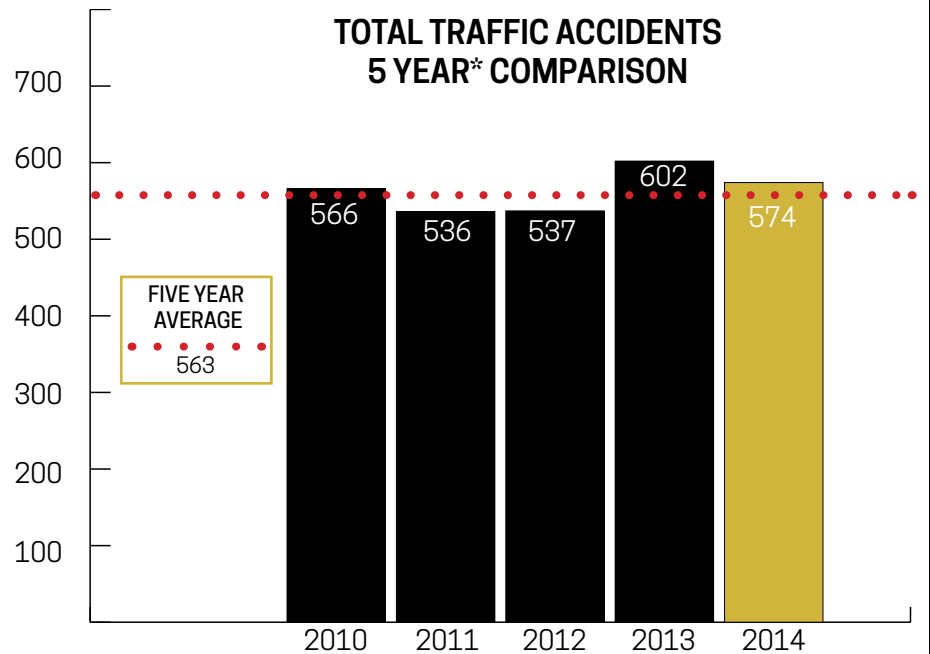
|STATISTICS|

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT STATISTICS

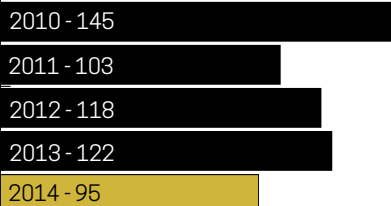
Traffic accident statistics are based on reportable crashes submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

Reportable crashes involve damages of \$1,000 or more to a single vehicle or piece of property.

*2014 represents the most recent data available from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.



INJURY ACCIDENTS



FATAL ACCIDENTS



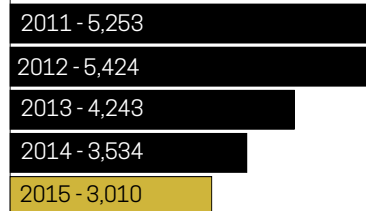
INJURY ACCIDENTS

An accident is considered an injury accident based upon reported injuries (including back or neck pain) and visible injuries.

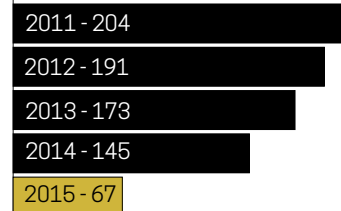
CITATIONS

Municipal citations include traffic offenses as well as ordinance violations such as disorderly conduct and theft.

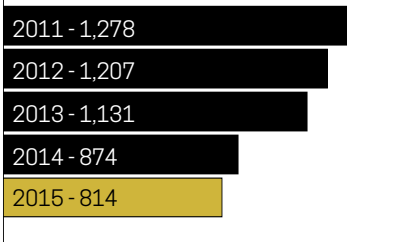
MUNICIPAL CITATIONS ADULT



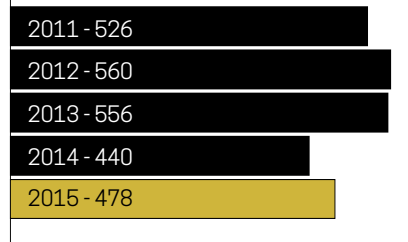
MUNICIPAL CITATIONS JUVENILE



ARRESTS



REFERRALS TO DISTRICT ATTORNEY



REFERRALS

Referrals to the District Attorney include cases where a physical arrest is not made but criminal charges are requested.

CALLS FOR SERVICE

	2014	2015		2014	2015
911 Disconnect	1829	2582	Identity Theft	8	28
Abandoned Vehicle	318	334	Information	168	153
Accident	875	834	License & Permits	460	490
Aggravated Assault	51	24	Malicious Mischief	5	4
Alarm	637	736	Missing Adults	15	5
Alcohol Violation	1	2	Missing Juvenile	41	43
Animal Bite	39	44	Noise Disturbance	428	393
Animal Complaint	407	411	Parking	1413	1598
Annoying Phone Calls	42	27	Preserve the Peace	103	126
Arson	1	0	Property - Found	117	0
Assist Citizen/Motorist	2193	2235	Property - Lost	47	30
Assist Other Department	555	496	Property-Recovered Stolen	1	5
Attempted Suicide	9	5	Prostitution/Solicitation	3	0
Auto Theft	19	13	Rape	6	1
Burglary	63	77	Robbery	17	15
Check Person	819	772	Sexual Assault	19	19
Check Property	1122	1270	Sexual Misconduct	4	8
Check Welfare	182	154	Simple Assault	207	222
Child Abuse/Neglect	8	5	Status Offense	2	1
Civil Matter	94	111	Suspicious Activity	184	161
Code Enforcement	19	12	Theft	332	321
Damage to Property	190	187	Threats	29	29
Death Investigation	14	17	Traffic Complaint	284	239
Disturbance	401	392	Traffic Stop	4228	4130
Disturbance Domestic	100	103	Traffic Stop - OWI	135	125
Drugs	41	42	Trespass	29	29
EMS	669	948	Warrant Service / P&P	109	107
Escape	0	1	Weapons Violation	10	14
Fight	0	5	Weapons Violation - Gun	4	1
Fire Department Incident	100	119	Weapons Violation - Other	2	0
Fraud	80	130			
Homicide	1	2	TOTALS	19,289	20,530



FITCHBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

5520 LACY ROAD
FITCHBURG, WI 53711
608.270.4300
608.270.4321 (Tipster Line)
www.fitchburgwi.gov/police



www.facebook.com/fitchburgwipolice



@FitchburgWIPD